GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3322
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2001
RECHARGING OF GROUND WATER
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have been actively considering to enact a model law to sustain sources of water through effective conservation and recharging of ground water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have been directed to set up regulatory authorities to effectively implement the said law; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) & (b) Water being a State subject, suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development has to be enacted by the States/Union Territories. However, in 1970 the Union Government had circulated a "Model Bill to regulate and control the development of ground water and matters connected therewith" to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development. Thereafter, a revised Model Bill was circulated in September, 1992 and again in June, 1996 to all the States/UTs. So far, States of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have enacted legislation to regulate the use of ground water.

(c) & (d) In the Model Bill circulated by the Union Government, there is a provision for establishment of Ground Water Authority by respective States/Union Territories to frame broad policies for administration of the legislation and its effective implementation.